

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Comments

The last line of paragraph 5, page 2, should probably read "prices fell".  
The last line of page 5 should probably read "Persian paw".

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REPORT

50X1-HUM

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DATE DISTR. 17 AUG. 53

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STANDARD OF LIVING

1. An evaluation by a Soviet of his standard of living is very difficult, since he has almost no means of comparing it with that of other peoples. The majority of Soviet citizens feel [ ] that their standard has increased measurably since the end of the war. On the whole, however, [ ] they are dissatisfied because of the high prices, the scarcity of goods, etc. [ ] described below. [ ] they regard the war as the major factor responsible for their retarded progress toward prosperity.

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QUALITY OF CONSUMER GOODS

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2. The quality of foodstuffs was, in general, quite satisfactory; but since most of them, such as sausage, cheese, fish, preserves, and other canned goods were prepared in large installations, there was a general sameness of flavor. The quality of textiles was, on the average, very poor, and the few exceptions were usually imported materials, such as fabrics from Czechoslovakia, Poland, China, etc. Furniture was almost always an import from the Soviet Zone of Germany. Good shoes were usually an import from Czechoslovakia. Electrical and optical articles were of good quality on the average. Tools and hardware were mostly of inferior quality.

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AVAILABILITY OF CONSUMER GOODS

3. At times there were very marked differences between the fixed and "free" prices. Free prices were paid only at the market places, where individual farmers from the vicinity of Leningrad sold their "surplus" products. There was no government ceiling on these prices, and therefore they varied with supply and demand, thus fluctuating greatly. Most provisions were always available, although individual items would be missing at times because a factory failed to deliver goods as a result of non-production or the workers' vacations. Foodstuffs would also be in short supply when people hoarded articles during a war scare, during transportation difficulties, and when there were poor harvests, such as that of vegetables in 1952. There were a few articles which were always scarce: flour (which was sold for only two or three days prior to the big holidays), eggs in the state-controlled stores, and vegetables, which were cultivated only in the open and were thus dependent upon the season. Good quality textiles were very hard to find in the stores. Electrical and optical goods were available periodically after lapses of about half a year. Imported articles from the satellite states, such as foodstuffs, textiles, shoes, furniture and electrical and optical equipment, were sold occasionally.

PRICE REDUCTIONS

4. The reduction in prices during the period 1946 to 1953 was quite noticeable. Foodstuffs were reduced about 1/6, textiles and shoes about 1/3 to 1/2, and electrical and optical goods about 1/2. The reduction in luxury and jewelry articles was very slight, as was that for furs. Available goods increased in both quantity and quality during that time.

5. [redacted] the populace [redacted] were far from satisfied as "peace" prices had not yet been attained, and promises made by the government in this respect had not been fulfilled. After each lowering of prices there was a scarcity of goods as well, a deterioration of quality, and a gradual retrogression to the old prices. Then prices were again lowered. Despite this, however, a marked increase in the level of living was noticed, especially because wages and salaries remained constant while prices rose.

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FEBRUARY 1953 PRICES

6. The following is a collation of information on prices gathered in Leningrad during the period October 1946 to February 1953. The prices given below are generally those in effect as of February 1953.

<u>Item</u>		<u>Fixed Govt. Price-Rbl.</u>	<u>Free Market Price-Rbl.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Black bread	1 kg	1.40--1.80	--	
White bread	1 kg	2.20--2.80	--	
Potatoes	1 kg	0.90	1.50--3.00	Seasonal
Pork	1 kg	22.--30.	25.--35.	Varied Quality
Beef	1 kg	12.--24.	17.--30.	Varied Quality
Veal	1 kg	18.--25.	22.--28.	Varied Quality
Butter	1 kg	29.33.	--	Varied Quality
Margarine	1 kg	16.--24.	--	Varied Quality

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<u>Item</u>		<u>Fixed Govt. Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Free Market Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Lard	1 kg	about 32.	--	
Cooking Oil	1 kg	24.--36.	--	Varied Quality
Sausage, low grade	1 kg	12.--30.	--	Liver, etc.
Sausage, top grade	1 kg	30.--60.	--	Salami, etc.
Ham, raw	k kg	36.--43.	--	
Ham, boiled	1 kg	40.30	--	
Roast pork	1 kg	40.30	--	
Limburger cheese	1 kg	21.90	--	
Holland cheese	1 kg	42.00	--	
Swiss cheese	1 kg	56.00	--	
Fresh fish	1 kg	10.--20.	--	Cod, haddock
Smoked fish	1 kg	about 23.	--	
Smoked flounder	1 kg	25.--28	--	
Smoked salmon	1 kg	56.--60.	--	
Caviar	1 kg	80.--120.	--	Varied Quality
Milk	1 ltr.	3.50	4.--6.	Seasonal
Eggs	1 ea.	.90--1.20	12.--25.	Seasonal
Flour	1 kg	3.60--7.20	8.--14.	Varied Quality
Groats	1 kg	11.60	--	
Salt	1 kg	about 1.	--	
Sugar	1 kg	10.40--12.20	--	Varied Quality
Rice	1 kg	17.	--	
Noodles	1 kg	4--8.	--	
Peas	1 kg	6.--8.	--	
Cabbage	1 kg	about 2.--3.	3.--6.	Seasonal
Cauliflower	1 kg	5.--10.	10.--20.	Seasonal
Spinach	k kg	about 2.	about 3.--5.	Seasonal
Carrots	1 kg	1.50--3.	3.--8.	Seasonal
Beets, red	1 kg	about 2.	3.--5.	Seasonal
Apples	1 kg	6.--20.	12.--25	Seasonal
Pears	1 kg	12.--18	15.--25.	Seasonal
Apricots	1 kg	10.--15	about 15.	Seasonal
Bananas	1 kg	10--18.	--	Seasonal
Strawberries	1 kg	15.--25.	20.--40.	Seasonal
Melons	1 kg	5.	6.	Seasonal
Oranges	1 ea	3.--5.	--	
Lemons	1 ea	3.--5.	--	
Pineapple(canned)	1 kg	18.	--	
Tomatoes	1 kg	5.--15.	10.--40	

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<u>Item</u>		<u>Fixed Govt. Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Free Market Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Cucumbers	1 kg	3.--6.	5.--20.	Seasonal
Onions	1 kg	3.--5.	5.--10	Seasonal
Cake, plain	1 pc.	1.--1.50	--	
Cake, fancy	1 pc.	2.30	--	
Chocolate bar	100 gr.	16.--25.	--	
Candies, plain choc.	1 kg	16.--40.	--	Varied quality
Candies, fancy choc.	1 kg	40.--95.	--	Varied quality
Candy, plain	1 kg	10.--25.	--	Varied quality
Candy, fancy	1 kg	20.--40.	--	Varied quality
Cocoa	1 kg	160.	--	
Coffee	1 kg.	44.20	--	Not roasted
Coffee	1 kg	56.	--	Roasted
Tea	1 kg	80.--160.	--	Varied quality
Beer	1 ltr	5.20--12.	--	Varied quality
White wine	0.7 ltr	18.--40.	--	Domestic
Red wine	0.7 ltr	20.--50.	--	Domestic
Sweet wines	0.7 ltr	20.--60.	--	Domestic & imported
Champagne	0.7 ltr	30.--45.	--	Dom. & imp.
Vodka	0.5 ltr	25.--35.	--	
Cognac	0.5 ltr	35.--120.	--	Varied quality
Liqueurs	0.5 ltr	35.--70.	--	Varied quality
Lemonade	0.5 ltr	1.25--2.50	--	Varied quality
Cigarettes, pkg. of 20		.70--7.20	--	tipped
Cigarettes, pkg. of 20		1.40--6.50	--	Normal
Cigars	1 ea	.60--3.	--	Varied quality
Cigarillos	1 ea	.07--.50	--	Varied quality
Tobacco	100 gr	3.--25.	--	Varied quality
Soap, laundry, 1, 100 gr		2.--3.	--	Varied quality
Soap, toilet	1 ea	3.--6.	--	Varied quality
Soap flakes, pkg.	100 gr	3.25	--	
Soap, shaving	1 ea	4.50	--	
Toothpaste	1 tube	2.	--	
Facial cream, 1 tube or jar		2.--10	--	Varied quality
Eau de cologne	0.1 ltr	12.--25.	--	Varied quality
Man's suit		800.--1500.	--	Varied quality
Man's summer coat		300.--1000.	--	Varied quality
Man's winter coat		400.--2000.	--	Varied quality

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Fixed Govt. Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Free Market Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Man's rubber coat	200.--400.	--	Varied quality
Man's trousers	100.--500.	--	Varied quality
Undershirts, poplin	75.--150.	--	Varied quality
Undershirts, silk	200.--300.	--	Varied quality
Men's underwear, linen	about 25.	--	
Men's underwear, cotton	about 40.	--	Very scarce!
Men's winter underwear, linen	about 40.	--	
Men's winter underwear, cotton	about 80.	--	Very scarce!
Men's shoes, leather	200.--500.	--	Varied quality
Men's shoes, artificial	70.--150.	--	Varied quality
Men's galoshes	30.--40.	--	Varied quality
Woolens per meter	150.--500.	--	Varied quality
Suit material, rayon per meter	50.--200.	--	Varied quality
Men's sox	10.--20.	--	Varied quality
Men's ties	5.--20.	--	Varied quality
Dresses	100.--500.	--	Varied quality
Skirts	50.--200.	--	Varied quality
Blouses	150.--450.	--	Varied quality
Women's summer coat material per meter	400.--600.	--	Varied quality
Women's winter coat material per meter	400.--1000.	--	Varied quality
Women's raincoats	150.--300.	--	Varied quality
Women's shoes, leather	200.--400.	--	Varied quality
Women's shoes, artificial	60.--150.	--	Varied quality
Women's overshoes, low	about 50.	--	
Women's overshoes, high	150.--200.	--	
Women's slippers, low	about 50.	--	
Women's felt boots	150.--400.	--	Varied quality
Silk stockings	35.--55.	--	Varied quality
Cotton stockings	18.--32.	--	Varied quality
Dress material, pure silk	80.--120.	--	Varied quality
Dress material, wool	150.--350.	--	Varied quality
Dress material, rayon	40.--150.	--	Varied quality
Dress material, cotton	15.--60.	--	Varied quality
Lace underwear, silk	60.--200.	--	Varied quality
Cotton underwear	40.--100.	--	Varied quality
Fur coat, persian lamb	10000.--20000.	--	Varied quality
Fur coat, persian claws (?)	about 10000.	--	Varied quality

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Fixed Govt. Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Free Market Price--Rbl.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Fur coat, seal	about 15000	--	Varied quality
Fur coat, seal rabbit (?)	1200.--3000.	--	Varied quality
Silver fox pelt 1 ea	2500.--4000.	--	Varied quality
Bed, metal	250.	--	
Mattress 1 ea	about 150.	--	
Bedroom set, complete	10000.--15000.	--	Varied quality
Dining room set, complete	15000.--25000.	--	Varied quality
Man's den furniture, complete	15000.--25000.	--	Varied quality
Bookcase	1500.--4000.	--	Varied quality
Writing table	150.--600.	--	Varied quality
Radio, ten tubes	about 1800.	--	
Radio, five tubes	about 750.	--	
Radio, three tubes	about 300.	--	
Radio, one band	about 200.	--	
Camera, Ljubitel	about 140.	--	
Camera, Sorki	about 800.	--	
Camera, Kine Exakta	about 1150.	--	
Camera, Leica (Russian)	about 2500.	--	
Television set, Leningrad T2	about 2500.	--	
Television set, Moskvitch	about 1500.	--	
Television set, Leningrad T1	about 1400.	--	
Carpets	--	--	Relatively cheap
Oil paintings	--	--	Relatively cheap
Books	--	--	Cheap
Porcelain articles	--	--	Very expensive
Glassware, crystal	--	--	Very expensive
Electrical equipment	--	--	Relatively cheap
Optical goods, binoculars	--	--	Relatively cheap
Silverware	--	--	Relatively cheap
Hardware	--	--	Expensive
Tools	--	--	Relatively cheap
Gold, dental 1 gram	90.	--	
Objets d'art	--	--	Very expensive
Jewelry	--	--	Very expensive

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SOCIAL STRATA

7. The favored social classes were the working intelligentsia, the officers of the military, and the ranking Party members. The class differences were not as noticeable [redacted] in the USSR, but they were quite marked. During that time the favored people not only had higher incomes, but they had supplemental food rations and special cards for textiles, shoes, etc., which were only available in special shops for these card-holders. [redacted]
- [redacted] people not favored did not think that such privileges were extraordinary or unjust. After the ration system was abandoned, [redacted] the only advantage, although a great one, was the distribution of premiums or bonuses for work accomplished. 50X1-HUM
8. The privileged class was relatively stable. It had a higher income, better living conditions, was conspicuously better dressed, and in general, gave evidence of a higher cultural level and social mobility. I do not know if their children received better training and education or not. Probably ability was the deciding factor here.
9. [redacted] tension between the higher and the lower classes of the population. There were probably dissatisfied elements in every class who were against the existing social structure. As the domestic spy and informer system was fully developed, however, it was impossible to gain any impression of how widespread this dissatisfaction was. 50X1-HUM

SOVIET HOUSING CONDITIONS

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10. The living conditions of the Soviet families [redacted] were rather bad. In most cases the Soviet families had only one room, so that, e.g., in a four-room apartment such [redacted] there were four families (regardless of the number of persons) who lived in it and shared the communal kitchen, toilet and bath. All apartments were state-owned and administered by the respective ministries, factories, institutes, unions, etc., and the best space allocations were usually given to those who had the best connections. [redacted] individual apartments were possessed by only supervisory personnel of these organizations, and especially by Stakhanov workers and ranking military officers. For example, an army general in a neighboring apartment house had an individual two-room apartment, in which he lived with his wife, two children, and their grandmother. Naturally the higher Party officials also had their own apartments. 50X1-HUM

GERMAN HOUSING

11. [redacted] four-room apartment with a family of four. It was located on the second floor of a six-floor apartment building. [redacted] had two rooms (one 18 square meters and the other 10 square meters) at [redacted] disposal and shared the kitchen, toilet and bath with another family. Electricity, central heating, and fuel gas (after October 1951) were available. Hot water taps were provided, but operated only once a year, when a commission inspected the apartments. Rent for the rooms, which included water and heating, was 118 rubles per month. Electricity was .40 rubles per kilowatt-hour and gas cost us .20 rubles per cubic meter. Payment was made to the cashier at Institute 49. [redacted] provided [redacted] own furniture for the rooms. The other families [redacted] some of them had two- and two-and-one-half-room single apartments. The over-all condition of the apartment was relatively [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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good As the entire apartment building had been completed just prior to [redacted] arrival. The execution of the interiors was, as far as we were [redacted] 50X1-HUM concerned, very poor. The woodwork especially left much to be desired, as doors and window frames had been constructed of green wood, thus resulting in cracking and warping of the doors and window frames. The paint work (walls were painted only) was of the style of 20 or 30 years ago. Most of the apartments were damp and mouldy because the roof leaked and the drains on the balcony became stopped up as a result of faulty location. The electrical system wiring was laid over the plastered walls in a very primitive manner. The heating system was a complete misconstruction; the radiators were much too small and, as it was a circulating water system, only the top floors were relatively warm. All of the apartments in the building "belonged" to the Ministry of Shipbuilding and were assigned to our group by Institute 49 on our arrival in Leningrad.

#### SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HOUSING SITUATION

12. The Soviet populace had many complaints about the very unfavorable living conditions, which were probably especially bad in Leningrad. The reason for this was a large increase in population during and after the war. [redacted] 50X1-HUM [redacted] officially there were three million people living in Leningrad, but [redacted] there were probably a million more living in the city illegally. If spot checks are made and they were caught, these people were sentenced to three to six months' imprisonment.

#### IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING CONDITIONS

13. Building construction, especially during the last few years, in all outlying districts of Leningrad is alleviating to some extent the poor housing conditions in that city.

#### STATUS OF WOMEN

14. It is an economic necessity for almost every Soviet woman to work if she wants to feed her family properly. Gainful labor also gave a woman a certain feeling of independence, which probably also led to a feeling of security. Because of the restricted living quarters, as well as the possibility of having the children cared for in kindergartens, etc., domestic chores were very few and women thus had more time. 50X1-HUM
15. The Soviet women, during the first years of our stay, could never understand how we German women could occupy and satisfy ourselves with only the care of our house and children. Later, however, they saw how a former career woman could devote herself to her home and the resultant advantages to family life, particularly to the children. [redacted] only those women worked who were forced economically to do so, whereas the wives of the management class (intelligentsia), and the ranking Party and military officials did not work. Equality of women [redacted] was valued only by the politically oriented women; the masses hardly 50X1-HUM considered the question. In general, a woman in the USSR, as in all Slavic states, derives more pleasure from work than a man, [redacted] therefore [redacted] she achieves personal gratification from hard labor. 50X1-HUM
16. A pleasant family life, such as that to which [redacted] accustomed, was 50X1-HUM practically impossible for the Soviets. [redacted] however, the 50X1-HUM Soviet woman does not particularly suffer from this, since she has never known anything else and has no possibility of comparison. The difficulty in having both a career and a home hardly presents itself to a Soviet girl, as marriage does not alter the necessity for working. In general, the Soviet girls marry young, often when they are still studying and without regard to available apartments or the necessary requirements for marriage to which we are accustomed.

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17. Soviet family life is much influenced by economic and living conditions. Despite this, a strong family tie was noticeable. This was seen especially in the fact that most women seemed to have an understanding for the weaknesses of their men, particularly that of alcoholism. many cases where the wife would practically drag her husband home after he had imbibed too freely. and governmental indoctrination conflicted, no doubt that they existed.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS

18. Maternity hospitals and infant homes were, in contrast to the general medical care available, quite clean and well run. Four to six mothers were put in a room, except for difficult cases, when they had a private room. In contrast to German practice, all visits to the lying-in women were prohibited, including the next of kin. This was probably done to prevent contagious diseases and insects from entering the building. There was a maternity hospital across the street from our apartment on Kuznetsovskaya Ulitsa. it had an especially good staff, which included university professors, who often gave practical tion there. In general the German women, who were regarded as foreigners and the dependents of German specialists, were given special attention so that there was nothing lacking.
19. The hospital had a so-called "Express service", which provided an ambulance at any time. Some months before delivery continual medical attention was provided by the rayon clinic. all women had to go to the maternity hospital. the mothers were satisfied with this arrangement as they knew no other and probably regarded it as the best possible.
20. As far as the infants' homes were concerned, these were operated very well, as the Soviet state does much for its children; so much so, in fact, that they had an exaggerated importance. The exemplary state care is probably the forerunner of political training embodied in later years. Many of these children, especially the older ones, did everything possible to become "Pioneers".

MINORITY PROBLEMS

21. There were a relatively large number of people from the former Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in Leningrad. Germans were often accosted by Estonians in their language. Leningrad had representatives from almost all Soviet states, probably because of its industrial importance and its high schools and universities. Many students from the satellite states were also in Leningrad during the last few years.
22. the people from the former Baltic States were closely watched and it was very difficult for them to attain good business positions. In general there were rather strong cohesive ties among the minorities, although these probably did not appear in public.

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23. The Jewish population was not especially loved by the masses, and derogatory remarks were often made about them. Even governmental agencies showed signs of antisemitism in later years (judicial proceedings against the Jewish doctors). [redacted] at the Institute when Jewish employees, who had had rather good positions were either transferred or degraded. After the process against the Jewish doctors gained notoriety, some demonstrations against the Jews were made by Soviet citizens and calm was restored only when the police intervened.

#### RELIGION

24. In general, a deep faith was noticeable in a large section of the Soviet population, and it was particularly noticeable on the former church holidays. Probably the only people who ignored them completely were the Party members. Churches were attended by all age groups, and the large attendance of young people of both sexes was particularly noteworthy. 50X1-HUM
25. There were no churches open in [redacted] residential district. In all of Leningrad there were only four churches open. The open churches were [redacted] situated near the center of the city. [redacted] These four churches were always, and particularly on the high holy days, crowded with worshippers. On the highest holy days, such as Easter, etc., the people would go there in the evening so that they would have a seat the next morning. During the actual services on these days, the streets in the church vicinity would also be filled with people. The spiritual leaders received little state support, and they were therefore forced to rely on their congregation for their own as well as the church upkeep. Part of the required funds were received through the sale of sacrificial candles. 50X1-HUM

#### CRIMES AND CORRUPTION

26. The most recurrent crime was pickpocketing. [redacted] which, despite severe police punishment, was not stamped out. There was hardly one German family which did not suffer from this type of crime. 50X1-HUM
27. Besides this, we heard of occasional hold-ups, especially of women. We were informed that these attacks were made primarily by juvenile delinquents (orphans). Of the more severe crimes, [redacted] a murder in a neighboring house [redacted] In misdemeanors the population was mostly on the side of the criminal and took a rather aggressive stand against the police. In this category were principally thefts of food from the stores. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
28. In general, it was very evident that many Soviets were susceptible to bribery. This was especially noticeable in the case of scarce articles, etc., which were always available if one wanted to pay the price. [redacted] the construction of week-end homes, which quite a few Leningrad citizens built on the Gulf of Finland, was possible only by the payment of bribes. There was a kind of construction police who had to examine the construction plans and approve them. The actual construction was then made differently, and this was possible only by paying bribes. [redacted] This bribery was, no doubt, well known to the various state offices, but it was probably hard to stop because of the low income conditions. As bribery was so prevalent, the population did not think that it was out of the ordinary. 50X1-HUM

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PUBLIC OPINION

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Attitude toward Regime

29. The highly developed informer system kept each Soviet from saying what he actually thought about the government. [redacted] the Soviet worker, with centuries of oppression behind him, was accustomed to nothing else and therefore thought nothing of the present system of oppression. The workers therefore took mostly a passive attitude to all such problems. 50X1-HUM
30. The attitude of the Soviets toward all organizations and members of the Party, especially the representatives of the MVD, was highly critical. The most unpopular, naturally, were the members of the MVD, and these were avoided as much as possible. The relationship between the population and army was quite good on the whole. The main reason for this, 50X1-HUM doubt, is the fact that almost every family has one or more of its 50X1-HUM members in the Soviet army. Stalin and Lenin are highly revered primarily by the young people, who receive continual indoctrination. [redacted]
31. The main criticisms of the population are directed against the poor living conditions, the low wages, and the relatively high cost of living, which was still great compared to pre-war conditions. [redacted] the Soviet people regard all arrangements and successes of their country as very fine. They have absolutely no basis for comparison, however. The German women often had the impression, [redacted] that the Soviet women to whom [redacted] talked would listen [redacted] about conditions in Germany, but that they gave no credence to [redacted] 50X1-HUM statements. Only the men and women who had seen conditions in other countries during the war, either as a prisoner, forced laborer, or soldier, knew that [redacted] not exaggerating [redacted] They did not dare, however, 50X1-HUM to discuss their opinion and experiences publicly. 50X1-HUM
32. [redacted] a Soviet girl, who had worked in a German horticultural establishment during the war [redacted] considered Germany a marvelous country and was ready to return at any time. She couldn't talk to anyone about it, however, or she would be sentenced to forced labor in Siberia. 50X1-HUM
33. Due to indoctrination by school, press, and radio, the young people especially are very proud of the successes of their country in all fields of science. (All important inventions were first made by the Soviets.) Military successes, especially the successful defense of their besieged city, were also highly thought of in the Leningrad area. The much better medical attention, contrasted to that of Czarist times, is widely acknowledged. Compulsory education is generally recognized as worthwhile.

Attitude toward the United States

34. The attitude of the population toward the United States was, on the whole, rather quiet, although the continual propaganda against it is probably not without some influence. The United States is generally held responsible for the prevailing world political tension, and this view is disseminated by the press, radio and school. The entire western world comes in for its share of the blame, too. There are quite a few Soviets, however, who listen to foreign broadcasts, and thus gain a clearer picture of actual world conditions.

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35. Due to the complete misrepresentation of Marshall Plan aid, NATO, and the EDC by the official propaganda line, which describes them primarily as war planning, the Soviet people are against them, as they have no opportunity for forming a clearer picture.
36. There were occasional strong rumors of the possibility of a new war, which led to hoarding. [redacted] these rumors were 50X1-HUM disseminated among the population purposely, so that they would be diverted from actual conditions, especially the economic. 50X1-HUM
37. Individual Soviets, such as craftsmen, milkwomen, etc., expressed the opinion that in prior wars, as well as in a future war, it was not the people who wanted a war, but the individual governments of the various countries. The friendliness and helpfulness shown [redacted] in Leningrad was probably based on this interpretation, which seemed to have been held by the greater part of the Soviet populace. [redacted] 50X1-HUM with the exception of a few young people and fanatic Party members, no unfriendliness towards the Germans. 50X1-HUM
38. [redacted] in an eventual war the Western countries would probably achieve some early successes because of their technical superiority, but that the USSR and Communism, as in the last war, would be victorious. This is the consensus of the very few discussions [redacted] with the Soviets on this topic. The Soviet population was kept misinformed about the Korean War and its ramifications, so that most of them saw the Communist side only, and there were some individuals who proposed direct intervention by the Soviet Union. The populace itself did not pay too much attention to the war.

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